



SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIAN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

February 2016 NEWSLETTER

Newsletter Editors: Rebecca Pinkus & Lenny Vartanian

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE

LETTER FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Contributed by **Blake McKimmie**



My role in the technical side of things for SASP started as being known as “the guy with the Mac video adapter”, and “the guy who could make Powerpoint for Windows show graphs from Powerpoint for Mac”. Ah the joys of early cross-platform computing, and being a minority in-group Mac-using-SASP-member!

I moved on from those early accomplishments to being known as “the guy who could throw together a web page”. Luckily things have improved, so nobody is looking at me anxiously during conference talks hoping

that the next slide will display properly, and most of my activity has been behind the scenes bringing our paper-based association on-line.

There have been a lot of changes in the 20 years since I started going to SASP conferences, originally we just held an annual conference. Now there’s summer schools, small group meetings, and journals as well. One thing hasn’t changed though, and that’s the diversity of topics that SASP members research, the positive collegial feel to the meetings, and the sizeable participation of postgraduate students along with their established colleagues. This makes SASP a great organization to be involved with and makes my identity as a social psychologist one I’m proud to hang onto especially when working across disciplines in psychology and law (and yes, I do still have a Mac video adapter...).

After 10 years in the job, the inestimable Blake McKimmie has decided it’s time to move on from his position as SASP’s Communications Officer. The SASP Executive is now seeking someone to fulfill Blake’s very large and stylish shoes, starting in April this year.

This is a very important role in SASP and an excellent way to make a contribution to the Society. It includes having a seat

on the SASP Executive, and would suit someone who is somewhat tech-savvy.

Formally, the duties of the role are as follows:
The Communications Officer shall...

- (a) maintain and advance the Association's online presence
- (b) manage the online tools that store membership records and email lists
- (c) manage payment tools for memberships and events
- (d) facilitate the Association's activities by providing online support for them through these systems.

For further information about the role, please contact our President Nick Haslam (nhaslam@unimelb.edu.au) or Blake himself (b.mckimmie@psy.uq.edu.au).

POSTGRADUATE UPDATES

**Contributed by Anna Klas
SASP Postgraduate Representative**

SASP Summer School

The 2016 Australasian Summer School in Social Psychology was held from 31 January to 5 February, at Deakin University's serene Warrnambool campus. A total of 44 postgraduate students from across Australia, Europe and America attended, with three workshop streams offered. These streams were: Social identity in real-world settings, led by Professor Alex Haslam (University of Queensland) and Dr Tegan Cruwys (University of Queensland); Making moral judgements, led by Dr Brock Bastian (University of Melbourne) and Dr Simon Laham (University of Melbourne); and,

The psychology of close relationships, led by Professor Julie Fitness (Macquarie University) and Dr Gery Karantzas (Deakin University).

The SASP Summer School began with a casual BBQ dinner (in true blue Aussie fashion), followed by four days of lectures, discussions and group work where students developed research projects. This allowed students to learn at depth about the research area of their stream, whilst also further developing their research skills under the guidance of their stream leaders. Students were also treated to three post-lunchtime seminars, including one about careers outside academia (Dr Elise Margetts), another about the art of giving a conference presentation (Professor Julie Fitness), and one that re-thought the psychology behind Milgram's classic studies (Professor Alex Haslam).

On the social side, we held the time-honoured trivia night, wherein the group 'Moral Sex Leaders' (made up of Fieke Wagemans, Jeff Hodgins, Emily Harris, Karolina Urbanska, Randal Tame, Caley Tapp, Cassandra Chapman, and Alex Haslam) won a prize pack of wine, dips and chocolates. There was also much socialising during the evenings, where students played games and partied into the night.

As always, the SASP Summer School was a hit, with many students reporting back that they had thoroughly enjoyed the week. Students stated that it was a great opportunity for them to meet other social psych PhDs, whilst allowing them to also become more skilful researchers. Given the enthusiasm when students presented their group projects at the end of the week, we are expecting to see the results of these group projects at upcoming SASP conferences.

A big thank you to all involved, and a special thanks to the SASP Summer School

organisers and stream leaders for all the effort they put into the event.

Postgraduate Small Grant Scheme

The SASP committee has indicated that there are 4 grants available this year, each worth \$500 (max). Applications for these grants are currently open and will close March 10, 2016.

The SASP committee expects that they will receive a large number of applications. Therefore this round will most likely be the only time you can apply for one of the grants this year.

The winners of these grants will be announced at the upcoming SASP conference during the AGM. Applicants will then be sent an email after the conference indicating whether they have been successful.

For details regarding eligibility, criteria and the application process, see <http://www.sasp.org.au/index.php/funding2/postgraduate-small-grant-scheme>

SASP Conference 2016 Postgraduate Workshops

Please be aware that a Postgraduate Workshop will be held at the conference on Thursday 31 March, 9am-12pm. There will be three parts to this workshop. Part 1 will look at why you need to focus on publication, part 2 will provide tips and trips for postgrads, and part 3 will be a Q&A session about the next big ideas in social psychology. This event is free for all postgrads.

For more information about the conference, including the postgraduate workshop program, please visit: <http://www.sasp.org.au/index.php/events/conference-2016#program>

Also, as many postgrads attend the conference, it is also worthwhile adding the SASP Postgrad group on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SASPpostgrads/>). You can use this method to contact other postgrads during the conference.

Conference Postgraduate Dinner

The Postgrad Dinner has become an important tradition of SASP conferences. The event is a great opportunity to get to know other postgrads over casual dinner and drinks. Don't be shy about attending; social psych postgrads are very friendly :)

Please see the [SASP conference website](#) for more details about this event to be held on Friday the 1st of April, 2016. Please note that registration for the dinner will close **March 10, 2016**.

THOSE NAGGING QUESTIONS ABOUT RESEARCH PRACTICES

**Contributed by Craig McGarty
SASP Publications Officer**



Few of us will have failed to notice the various controversies about the conduct of research that have reverberated around the world of social psychology. These concerns related to the widespread fabrication of research data and have resulted in an ongoing string of retraction notices.

I don't propose to add here to the volume of commentary on various high profile cases. In choosing not to comment I am not, in any way, suggesting that what has been said has been of such high quality that nothing more needs to be said. Rather, with the benefit of some distance in time from the high profile controversies, it is perhaps possible to return to the core of the matter. What has been done to set matters right and what can I do? Hopefully very few of us will encounter gross fabrication but there are things that we can all do to improve the world of social psychological research. To see what we can do we need to take a close look at the incentive structures related to research in our field. I wish to focus on two layers of those.

The first is that there are incentives for researchers to produce multiple studies that consistently support a novel hypothesis. I have on multiple occasions read reviews where the reviewers have recommended that the authors drop a study with inconsistent or weak results.

The second is that there can be a premium for "newsworthy" results that establish a novel effect (the social psychological equivalent of cold fusion), providing that the finding does not directly challenge the reviewers' own preferred theories (I have also seen at least two instances where reviewers have said that the results are unpublishable because they are inconsistent with unpublished work from their own labs).

Now it might be argued that the howlers described above would not occur in the modern enlightened world of social psychology but it seems to me that the incentive structures remain and the same attitudes that were present explicitly in those reviews may continue in an implicit form. Researchers are rewarded for achieving a coherent balance of the novel and the agreeable. Researchers who leave that balance to random sampling of an effect of small to moderate

size, are less likely to feature in the pages of the leading journals even if their work is ingenious.

Fortunately, the question for us in 2016 is not what is to be done but how can we do more of what we are already doing? An important part of the tool kit in response here is the pre-registration journal. Such journals commit to publish empirical papers on the strength of the ideas and the rigour of the methods before we know what the results are. Once your plan for carrying out the research is accepted then the journal will publish the results (providing you follow the agreed plan). Your planned studies could be brand new explorations or replication studies (you decide that not the journal). That is, pre-registration journals accept papers on the basis of ingenuity and sophistication rather than the expected or unexpected nature of the results. There is no reward for somehow being "lucky" (whatever that means) with the results.

That sounds great I hear you say, but where would I find that kind of journal in psychology or social psychology? I am glad you asked because SASP in partnership with EASP is a key supporter of the world's first preregistration journal in psychology [*Comprehensive Results in Social Psychology*](#) published by Taylor and Francis (details below) under the leadership of Chief Editors Kai Jonas and Joseph Cesario. One of our former SASP Presidents Jolanda Jetten is an Associate Editor of the new journal and (through negotiations overseen by another former SASP President Bill von Hippel) SASP has a seat on the governing council. You can therefore either sleep soundly knowing that your Society is contributing to improving the standards of the science, or even better you can keep the candle burning as you work on your own submission to CRSP after reading the material from Kai and Joe linked below.

Video: <https://vimeo.com/149168089>

Blog post: [An Introduction to Comprehensive](#)

Editorial: [How can preregistration contribute to research in our field?](#)

[Instructions for Authors](#)

CRISIS? WHAT CRISIS?



Social media was in a frenzy this past week as [a team of authors](#), led by Harvard Professor Dan Gilbert, published a [Technical Comment](#) in *Science* regarding the Open Science Collaboration's August 2015 *Science* research article on the Reproducibility Project: Psychology (RP: P). The Open Science Collaboration's paper was a multi-authored (270 authors) report about a multi-site, multi-year large-scale replication attempt of 100 studies from the 2008 volumes of *Psychological Science*, *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, and *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*. Of the 100 replication attempts, only 36 studies produced significant results. The media picked up on this report and, predictably, much finger-pointing and hand-wringing ensued.

The release of the Technical Comment, and accompanying [Harvard press release](#), has again stoked the fires of the media's interest in psychology. Since the publication of the Technical Comment, the Open Science Collaboration has produced [a response](#), to which the Technical Comment authors subsequently [responded](#).

Several Facebook groups about psychology (e.g., Psychological Methods Discussion Group, Psychological Methods and Practices, International Social Cognition Network) and psych bloggers ([Mickey Inzlicht](#), [Uri Simonsohn](#), [Sanjay Srivastava](#), [Simine Vazire](#)) have had a field day with poring over the commentaries on the commentaries, and then providing their own commentaries on those commentaries.

What are your impressions of the RP: P, and the various reactions and commentaries to it? What changes, if any, have you made to the way you conduct research or teach about these issues? Will you be pre-registering your studies and submitting to *CRISP*? Send us your thoughts and we'll compile a SASP response for the next newsletter.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

SASP 2016 CONFERENCE INFORMATION

**Contributed by Fiona Barlow,
Jolanda Jetten, Winnifred Louis,
Tyler Okimoto
SASP 2016 Organising Team**

Our annual SASP conference typically attracts up to 200 delegates, including a significant number of postgraduate students. It is the most popular avenue for the dissemination of social psychological research within Australasia, and attracts local, national and international researchers. The 2016 conference will be jointly hosted and organised by The University of Queensland and Griffith University.

We are pleased to announce that Alice Eagly (Northwestern University) will be

our keynote speaker and there will be a Presidential Address by Nick Haslam (University of Melbourne).



Alice Eagly



Nick Haslam



Preconference

We are hosting a small preconference meeting on the topic of “**Interpersonal Forgiveness**” on March 30, 2016. This meeting will be hosted by UQ Business School, and will be held at the UQBS Executive Education venue in the CBD.

This meeting brings together scholars whose work promotes a better psychological understanding of interpersonal forgiveness. In an intimate, small-group forum of about twenty participants, we will discuss recent and ongoing research on this topic. Invited speakers will deliver a 30-minute focal presentation on their recent forgiveness-related research program, and each presentation will be followed by a 15-minute group discussion. The day concludes with discussant analysis and a group conversation about the future of forgiveness scholarship in social psychology. We will then continue our informal discussions over dinner.

Confirmed Presenters:

- Ramona Bobocel**, The University of Waterloo
- Julie Fitness**, Macquarie University
- Mario Gollwitzer**, Philipps University of Marburg, Germany
- Jerry Goodstein**, Washington State University Vancouver
- Peter Strelan**, The University of Adelaide
- Michael Wenzel**, Flinders University of South Australia
- Lydia Woodyatt**, Flinders University of South Australia

[Rydges South Bank Brisbane](#) is the conference venue for SASP 2016. We chose Rydges because of its combination of high class conference facilities and excellent location, being close to train, bus and ferry transport and with a range of cafes, bars and restaurants on its doorstep. If you missed booking by the 29th of February to receive the discounted room rate for the SASP conference, or if you're looking for other options, please see [this information](#) in the SASP conference website.



Postgraduate Workshop

Every year, the SASP conference starts with a morning workshop for postgraduates. Please see Postgraduate Representative Anna Klas's contribution in this newsletter for more information, or go to http://www.sasp.org.au/images/SASP2016_pgworkshop_program.pdf for full details.

Social Program

There are five social events planned this year: Welcome Cocktail Reception (Rooftop Terrace at Rydges), Postgraduate Dinner (The Burrow, West End), Conference Dinner (State Library), Lone Pine River Cruise, BBQ in New Farm Park.

For more information, please see the [SASP conference page](#) on the SASP website.

Registration

Registration for the conference is now open. The fees (as of 1 March, 2016) for registration are \$480 for Academic staff who are SASP members (\$580 for Academic staff who are non-members) and \$370 for Students who are SASP members (\$420 for Students who are non-members). On-site registrations will incur an additional \$50 fee. Don't forget that you need to have a (free) account on the SASP website in order to register.

Please see the [SASP conference website](#) for more details.

We are looking forward to seeing you all in Brisbane!



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: SPSS-SASP SMALL GROUP MEETING

Immigration to Major Immigrant-Receiving Countries: Immigrant and Host Perspectives

November 29-30, 2016
Ottawa, Canada

In many major immigrant-receiving countries in the world, the issue of immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers and their integration in the host society is higher than ever on the political agenda. While much is known about both the immigrants' and the host society's perspective, we are confronted with new challenges in the 21st century as a result of the refugee crisis in the Middle East, the Global Financial Crisis, new political rhetoric surrounding immigration, and security concerns surrounding immigration, as well as changing immigration policies and practices.

This conference brings together researchers interested in the topic of immigration from a psychological perspective. We seek to include researchers who examine, for example, attitudes toward immigrants, support for particular immigration policies, immigrants' identity and integration outcomes, responses to changing immigration policies, economic and security concerns surrounding immigration, portrayals of immigrants in the media, and the consequences of policy and concerns for members of the receiving community and immigrants.

The meeting will take place November 29 to 30, 2016 in Ottawa, Canada, immediately prior to the annual meeting organized by the Pathways to Prosperity Partnership (see www.p2pcanada.ca) in the same location and to which meeting participants will be invited. We aim to include up to 30 active participants in the meeting, about half being from Australasia, and about half being junior faculty or postgraduates. Accommodation

and travel costs will be partially offset by funding from SPSSI, SASP, and other potential sources, based on need.. There will be no conference fee. We plan to publish a special issue of the Journal of Social Issues based on a subset of papers presented at the meeting.

At least 80% of participants must be members of SPSSI or SASP.

To apply, please send an e-mail to Jolanda Jetten (j.jetten@psy.uq.edu.au) and Victoria Esses (vesses@uwo.ca) by **June 1, 2016** with your proposed paper's title, summary (500-750 words), and authors (with affiliations for all and contact information for the presenting author), as well as the presenting author's membership in SPSSI or SASP. Decisions will be made by July 1, 2016.

**INVITATION TO SUBMIT
PROPOSALS FOR SPSSI-SASP 2017
AUSTRALASIAN SMALL GROUP
CONFERENCE SERIES**

**Contributed by
Stefania Paolini and David Livert
SPSSI and SASP
Small Group Conference
Representatives**

Proposals/Letters of Interest are invited by April 15, 2016 for the 2017 small group conference meeting jointly sponsored by the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) and the Society of Australasian Social Psychologists (SASP).

Proposals are expected for a small conference meeting to take place in Australasia in 2017 and to follow the successful 2015 inaugural meeting in Brisbane (organizers Winnifred Louis, Catherine Amiot, & Emma Thomas), and the upcoming 2016 meeting in Ottawa (organizers Jolanda Jetten and Victoria Esses).

Those interested in submitting a proposal for the 2017 meeting have the option of planning the small group meeting as a pre-conference or post-conference event around the SASP annual meeting, but this is certainly not essential. The final proposal will be due **September 1, 2016** with notification of award by October 1, 2016.

A total of \$7,000 in support is available for each meeting as part of a collaboration between SPSSI and SASP. The purpose of the collaboration is to help strengthen links between the two organizations so that members of each may have opportunities to discuss research questions of mutual interest. This new series is modeled after the successful SPSSI-EASP small group conference series.

Conference Proposal Guidelines
In most cases:

- This program will support one meeting a year.
- Conference themes will be related to social issues and have international relevance (i.e., not focused on intra-national issues).
- At least 80% of persons attending the conference will be members of one or both organizations
- Representation from the two societies will be balanced: with no more than two-thirds of the participants being members of one of the organizations.
- Each conference will have two (or more) organizers; at least one will be a member of SPSSI and one a member of SASP. Preferably one organizer will be located in Australasia and the other in North America.
- Conference organizers are encouraged to facilitate publication

of material on the conference topic through [the Journal of Social Issues](#) or [SPSSI's book series](#).

Questions:

Please see the SPSSI - SASP website for additional details and updates:

<http://www.spssi.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.viewPage&pageID=1889&nodelD=1>

Those interested in submitting a proposal are strongly encouraged to send a short email with an Expression of Interest to David Livert livert@psu.edu and Stefania Paolini stefania.paolini@newcastle.edu.au so that we can answer any questions and provide assistance in developing your proposal.

MEMBER NEWS

Want to see what our members have been publishing recently? For a quick look at the contributions SASP members have made in the second half of 2015 (July 2015-December 2015) visit <http://www.sasp.org.au/index.php/news/member-activities>

Congratulations to the following SASP members who received funding from the ARC or NHMRC for 2016:

Catherine Amiot, Martha Augoustinos, Tegan Cruwys, Katharine Greenaway, Alex Haslam, Peter Koval, Winnifred Louis, Craig McGarty, Rebecca Pinkus, Michael Platow, Lenny Vartanian.

Congratulations to Emeritus Professor **Norman Feather**, who was recently appointed a Member (AM) of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day 2016 Honours List. Norm's citation acknowledges his "significant service to higher education as an academic, author and editor, to the social and behavioural sciences, and to professional bodies". Norm has been a pioneering and highly influential figure in Australian social psychology, and was awarded the John Turner Medal at our 2015 conference.

Have we missed something or someone? Please send any member news (e.g., publications, media, grants, honours, awards) or any upcoming calls for papers, meta-analysis data requests, job listings, and so on to rebecca.pinkus@sydney.edu.au or lvartanian@psy.unsw.edu.au for inclusion in future newsletters.

Thanks!

The Editors would like to thank Ewelina Swierad, Angela Pellatt, and Adrien Gooding for their help putting together this edition of the newsletter.
